

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions in forcing affiliate stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of presenting a blatant, politically motivated, one-sided documentary, Sinclair needs to air programs that support the other side, as well.

By forcing its affiliate stations to air the program, Sinclair demonstrates shadowy and frightening characteristics of the various dictators that we, as a free nation, abhor.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you for your time.

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